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# RHINOCEROSSES FROM THE PLIOCENE OF NORTHWESTERN KENYA

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**ABSTRACT.** A large brachypotherine, *Brachypotherium lewisi* sp. nov., is described from Lothagam-1; it is the last recorded member of the group. The genus has been present in Africa since the early Miocene and presumably immigrated from Eurasia somewhat before that time. Whether or not the African and Eurasian forms thereafter evolved in parallel is uncertain, but *B. lewisi* could have descended from the early Miocene *B. snowi* (Fourtau) of Egypt. Fragmentary remains from Ngorora and Sahabi are identified as *B. sp. cf. B. lewisi*. An upper molar from Lothagam-1 is referable to *Ceratotherium* and is the earliest record of the genus. This tooth is indistinguishable from those of specimens found in the later Kanapoi and Ekora sediments. *C. praecox* sp. nov. is based on this material. Fragments from the Mursi and the Chemeron (locality J. M. 507), previously identified as *C. simum*, are reassigned as *C. sp. cf. C. praecox*. The new species shows decided resemblances to *Diceros*, indicating that the white rhinoceroses diverged from the black during Pliocene time. Apart from the European Pontian *D. pachygnathus* (Wagner), the scantily recorded history of the *Diceros* group is wholly African. Quaternary specimens of *D. bicornis* and *C. simum simum* are recorded in an Appendix.

## INTRODUCTION

Paleontological expeditions to Kenya from this Museum discovered and worked Pliocene deposits in southeastern Turkana District during the years 1965 to 1968. These deposits, Kanapoi (Patterson, 1966), Lothagam Hill and Ekora (Patterson, Behrensmeyer and Sill, 1970), have yielded a variety of vertebrates and molluscs, in-

cluding the rhinocerotid remains here reported upon.

Two rhinoceroses are now known from Lothagam-1: a large *Brachypotherium*, represented by two incomplete skulls, two lower jaws, jaw fragments, isolated teeth, an atlas and portions of a femur, and an early form of *Ceratotherium*, known from a single incomplete upper molar. This is the only specimen in the Lothagam collection to reveal the presence of any relative of the living African forms. The Kanapoi and Ekora collections contain three incomplete skulls, three incomplete jaws, various teeth, and a humerus of a *Ceratotherium* that is inseparable on the evidence from the one occurring at Lothagam; it is less advanced than *C. simum* (Burchell) in skull structure and resembles *Diceros bicornis* (L.) in dental characters.

Specimens of *Brachypotherium* found *in situ* at Lothagam were in fine-grained sediments, those of *Ceratotherium* at Kanapoi and Ekora in coarse, including conglomeratic, ones.

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